



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 16 July 1968



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**THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
16 JULY 1968**

1. South Vietnam

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2. Soviet Union

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3. Communist China

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4. Soviet Union - Czechoslovakia

The departure of Soviet troops is continuing at a leisurely pace. The Czechs are now saying it will be Sunday before the whole contingent has left Czechoslovakia. Moreover, some of the Soviet units which did leave over the weekend seem to have bivouacked just across the border.

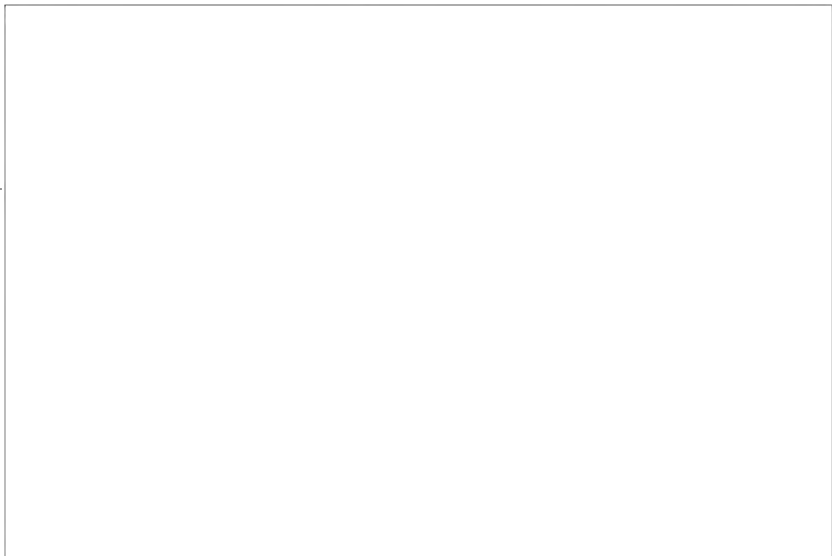
Leaders from the five orthodox countries--the Soviet Union, East Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, and Hungary--wound up their meeting in Warsaw yesterday afternoon. The meeting's final communiqué, while making the conferees' concern abundantly clear, is notably milder than recent pronouncements on Czechoslovakia in the orthodox party press.

[redacted] yesterday's meeting dragged out much longer than had been planned, and we suspect that some haggling had to take place before the conference could reach the required "complete unanimity of views." Our guess is that the Hungarians exerted a moderating influence.

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5. International Communism

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6. France

De Gaulle apparently plans to postpone action on his reform program until the fall. This was the message which came through in the government's law-and-order Bastille Day pronouncements and in its crackdown on student rioters. It seems implicit in the mini-shakeup of the cabinet, in which most of the important ministers under Premier Couve turned out to be holdovers from the Pompidou days.

We also note that the government is pushing hard on orthodox fiscal measures designed to shore up the franc.

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7. France

The second test of the 1968 series was detonated yesterday. [REDACTED]

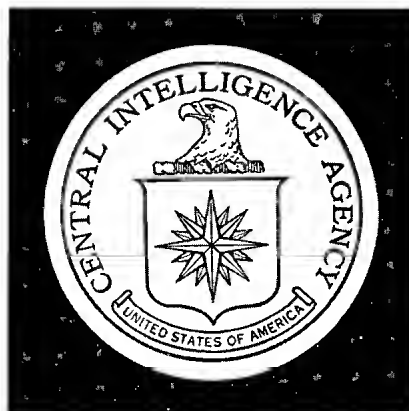
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8. West Germany

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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16 July 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

16 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

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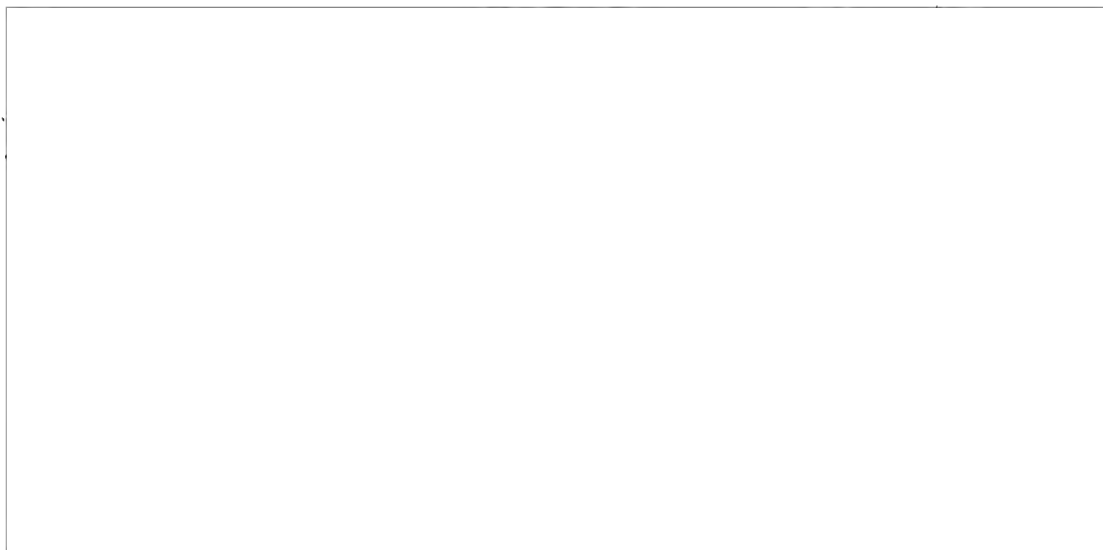
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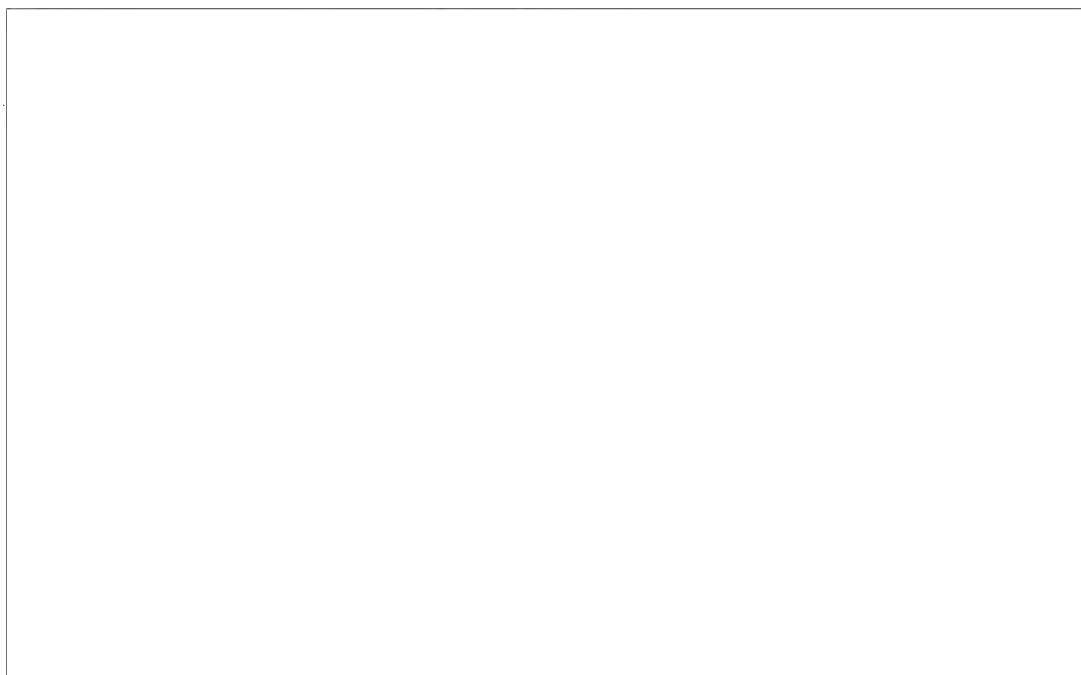
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Hanoi Propaganda: Nhan Dan, the party newspaper, has heaped scorn upon US "hypocrisy" and US "principles" expressed during the 10 July session of the Paris talks, according to an international service broadcast in English over Radio Hanoi. The article by "Commentator" charged that the highest American principle was the "principle of aggression." "Commentator" is a designation usually indicating high party authorship.

Picturing Vietnam as a nation which has never imposed its will upon other nations by force, the article cites "historical fact" to show that the US has engaged in wars during the 20th century only to serve the "dirty interests" of its "ruling financiers."

The article ridiculed the "billion dollars" in economic assistance to Southeast Asia offered by President Johnson as "rotten bait." It advised the US to devote its resources to coping with its own financial crises as well as its "economic, social and political confusion."

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Windup of Jurists' Conference: The World Conference of Jurists concluded on 10 July in Grenoble, France, with a propaganda blast at US "aggression"

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in Vietnam, according to a Hanoi international service broadcast in English on 13 July. The statement issued by the conference endorsed Hanoi's major positions down the line, including "recognition of the great importance of the founding of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces."

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Reaction to Death Sentences: The Liberation Front's radio has responded with outrage to the death sentences imposed last week by South Vietnam on ten leaders of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces who were tried in absentia. The Front broadcast described the "US aggressors and their lackeys" as a "clique of criminals who have drunk human blood without wincing," and denounced the trials as a "cheap psychological trick" and a "dirty farce" which clearly exposes the "panic of the US aggressors and their lackeys."

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Statement of Solidarity Committee: The Vietnam Committee for Solidarity with the American People, whose founding in Hanoi was noted last week, has extended the hand of "militant solidarity" to Americans engaged in the antiwar movement.

In a statement over Radio Hanoi's international service in English on 12 July, the committee emphasized the "common history" of struggle against tyranny shared by Vietnamese and Americans. It warmly praised the American people's "valiant acts against the US war in Vietnam," which, it said, the Vietnamese people regard as "precious encouragement" in their struggle for national liberation.

Declaring that the Vietnamese people have always clearly distinguished between the warlike US Government and the peace-loving American people, the statement expressed the solidarity committee's "warmest greetings and wishes" that organizations in the

US antiwar movement "will win greater achievements" in the struggle to end the war in Vietnam "being conducted by the US Government."

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Hanoi Quiet on US Elections: Analysis of North Vietnamese propaganda from 28 June through 12 July shows that it contains no reference to the US election campaign and no mention of any of the candidates as such.

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